

LAPPOEHN-3  
10/646,915

### Remarks

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,422,761 to Naghski et al.

Claims 1, and 12 have been amended. New claim 13 has been added. Claims 2, 3, and 5 have been canceled.

First, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 12 and 13 are patentable over the above cited reference because claims 1, 12, and 13 recite the following:

...said plug-in connector is formed as two symmetrical halves having a center plane extending along a plane for transmitting optical signals.

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In contrast, Naghski includes components that are all disposed in a common housing (24). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 12 are patentable over the above cited reference.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 12 are patentable over the above cited reference because, with the present invention, as recited in claims 1 and 12:

...wherein said at least one mirror and said lens system and said plurality of glass fiber lines are coupled together in an input plane of said plug;

This feature is not shown in the above cited reference. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is patentable over the above cited reference. Claim 13 includes a substantially similar phrase but it instead includes polymer lines. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is allowable as well.

Furthermore, the reference to Naghski discloses a plug in system that has lenses that are disposed as close as possible to

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the reflecting and deflecting surface. In Naghski, the lens is directly ahead of the prism or also positioned directly after the prism. With this design, the optical signals that leave the prism 22 of Naghski are directed back to the face of the glass fiber lines. This coupling in of signals into the fiber lines of the second cable then takes place by means of a face to face contact of the glass fiber lines disposed in the plug and in the cable. This type of a connection usually results in a loss of transmission strength in the signal which can be disadvantageous with applications that require increased transmission capacity.

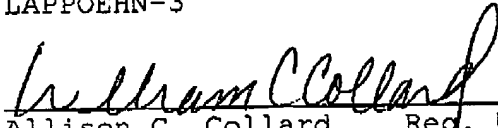
Claims 1 and 12 have been amended, new claim 13 has been added which includes elements of former claims 1 and 3, while claims 2, 3, and 5 have been canceled. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application proceed to issuance.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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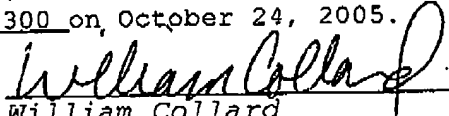
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Enclosure(s): 3 Month Extension of Time

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by  
facsimile transmission to the U.S.P.T.O. to Patent Examiner Javaid  
Nasri at Group No. 2839, to 571-273-8300 on October 24, 2005.

  
William Collard